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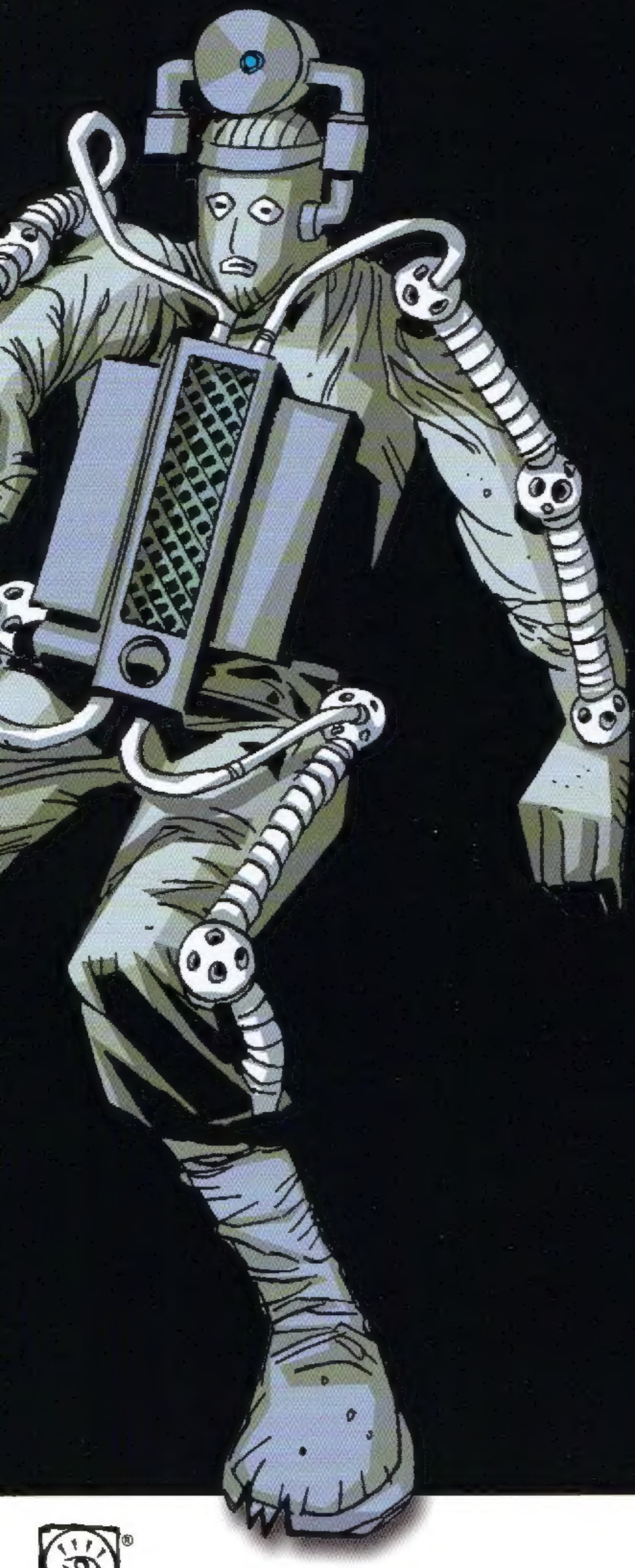

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ON THE FURTHERMOST EDGE OF THE SPIRAL ARM OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY—FAR FROM THE ACTION—AROUND THE BACKWATER PLANETS AND SUBURBAN SUNS CHUGGED THE SALVAGE-SHIP **DRIFTER**... A MOBILE MONUMENT TO THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND THE RE-CYCLING OF SCRAP METAL!

DRIFTER

AMAZING! ABSOLUTELY **AMAZING!** I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

JUNK YARD DEMON

WRITER| STEVE PARKHOUSE | ARTISTS | MIKE McMAHON AND ADOLFO BUYLLA | EDITOR| ALAN McKENZIE

ON THE BRIDGE, HER DEVOTED PILOT AND BUILDER, **FLOTSAM**, SURVEYED HIS DOMAIN WITH AN EYE TRAINED TO SPOT THE TINIEST DETAIL IN AN ENDLESS VOID...

... WITH THE HELP OF HIS GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER'S BRASS TELESCOPE ...

IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE BEEN DEALING IN SALVAGE, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT!

NO NUCLEAR ENERGY

MIND YOU ... I LOVE THE **LOOK** OF IT ... A BOX WITH LITTLE WINDOWS! TERRIFIC!

I'VE GOT TO **HAVE** IT!!

BRIDGE TO BOILER-ROOM! FLOTSAM CALLING JETSAM...

SAVE THE

ZZZZZZ

COME IN, PLEASE, JETS!

JETS! CAN YOU HEAR ME? BOILER-ROOM COME IN, PLEASE!

JETS! WAKE UP! I KNOW YOU'RE THERE ... I CAN HEAR YOU **SNORING!!**

EH ... WHAT?

WHADDYA MEAN ... SNORING? I WAS JUST *HUMMING* TO MYSELF, THAT'S ALL!

YOU'D BETTER GET *SHOVELLING*, JETS! WE NEED A GOOD HEAD OF STEAM!

JETS GOT SHOVELLING!

ACME 5

A GOOD HEAD OF STEAM, EH? THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...

THE OLD VILLAIN'S SPOTTED SOMETHING ... AND HE'S GOIN' **AFTER** IT!

SO THE DRIFTER MADE SPEED...

...SOON OVER-HAULED THE MOTIONLESS TARDIS...

...AND SWALLOWED THE LITTLE TIME-CAPSULE IN ONE GULP!

WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE?

I DON'T KNOW, JETS... BUT IT'S *NICE*, ISN'T IT?

WHAT YOU GONNA **USE** IT FOR, FLOTS? IT AIN'T GOT A MOTOR, HAS IT? I MEAN, YOU CAN'T STRIP IT DOWN...

I'VE JUST GOT A **FEELING** ABOUT IT... I THINK IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL!

WHAT DO **YOU** THINK, DUTCH?

ME? OH... WELL ... ER...

DUTCH'S BRAIN WAS WINDMILL-POWERED, IT NEEDED A BLAST OF AIR TO OPERATE!

I'LL NEED THE BELLOWS.

HE NEEDS THE BELLOWS!

HE NEEDS THE FLIPPIN' BELLOWS!

SOME DAY THAT ROBOT WILL GET CAUGHT UP IN A **HURRICANE** AND BLOW HIS LITTLE RE-CYCLED MIND...

THAT'S IT, JETS! PUMP AWAY!

FOOPH!

I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

YEP! IT'S OBVIOUS! FIRST, WE'LL TAKE A **SAMPLE**...

... WITH MY HIGH-SPEED, DIAMOND-TIPPED **DRILL**!

BUT UNTIL THAT HAPPY DAY... THE BELLOWS!

RRRRMMMMM

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HAVING MUCH EFFECT!

INSIDE THE TARDIS, THE DOCTOR SAT DEEP IN MEDITATION...

RRRRRMMMMM

SKREEEE!

FLUBBLE!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT DREADFUL NOISE?

I'VE BENT MY DRILL, FLOTS...

OH, DEAR.

I SAY... IF YOU WANTED TO COME IN... ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS KNOCK...

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

WE WERE HOPING YOU'D TELL **US** THAT!

WHY SHOULD I?

WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

WE ARE THE DIRECTORS OF THE BACKWATER SCRAP AND SALVAGE COMPANY...

AND WE'VE JUST COLLECTED YOU!

I'VE BEEN CALLED A LOT OF THINGS IN MY TIME... BUT NEVER "SCRAP"!

I'M NOT OBSOLETE YET, YOU KNOW!

BY THE WAY... I'M THE **DOCTOR!**

COULD YOU 'AVE A BUTCHER'S AT MY **BACK**, DOC? IT'S BEEN PLAYIN' ME UP SUMMAT CHRONIC!

HMMPH!

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT AN **EXTRAORDINARY** ROBOT!

I'M **NOT** A ROBOT...

I'M A **LIVING SCULPTURE!**

I **DO** BEG YOUR PARDON!

OH! SO THAT'S WHERE I PUT IT!

SCRAP COMPANY, DID YOU SAY..? WHAT A MARVELLOUS CO-INCIDENCE...

HAVE YOU GOT A NON-VARIABLE OSCILLATOR?

WHAT KIND OF CYCLE?

OOH, ABOUT 400 HZ!

WE'VE GOT A COUPLE HERE SOMEWHERE!

OOF!

W-WHERE DID YOU GET THAT... THING?

OH, WE PICKED IT UP JUST RECENTLY...

...GENUINE SALVAGE! I'M WORKING ON IT MYSE - ERK!

DON'T WORRY DOC — IT'S DE-ACTIVATED

WE DO QUITE A LOT OF THESE...

WE RE-PROGRAMME THEM AND SELL THEM AS BUTLERS TO RICH FOLK ALL OVER THE GALAXY — THEY'RE VERY FASHIONABLE!

THANK GOODNESS... I NEARLY HAD A DOUBLE HEART ATTACK..!

HERE'S YOUR OSCILLATOR! MAY I ASK WHAT YOU WANT IT FOR?

I'LL SHOW YOU!

WALK THIS WAY...

HMM!

WOW!

PERFECT! WON'T BE A JIF, NOW!

BEEP! BEEP! MEEP!

MMMMM!

IT'S HOT CHOCOLATE... DRINK UP!

GANGWAY!

YEOWW!

YOU WILL OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS... RESISTANCE IS USELESS...

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

YOU ARE IN MY POWER! YOU WILL OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS!

JUST SAY THE WORD AND WE'LL **RUSH** 'IM DOC — HE CAN'T STOP THE THREE OF US!

DO AS HE SAYS! ONE CYBERMAN COULD STOP AN **ARMY!**

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WE'VE NEVER HAD ONE TURN PUSHY BEFORE!

THIS CRAFT IS COMMANDEERED BY THE AUTHORITY OF CYBERNAUT ZOGRON!

YOU WILL NOW DO MY BIDDING!

THE DRIFTER'S WINDMILL-POWERED ROBOT, DUTCH, HAD OTHER IDEAS...

ONLY ONE THING TO DO WITH SCRAP METAL... **BREAK IT UP!**

ZAK!

BUT INSTEAD OF FALLING TO THE FLOOR IN FRAGMENTS THE CYBERMAN APPEARED TO **GROW!**

YOUR WEAPONS CANNOT HARM ME!

ANY POWER DIRECTED AT ME WILL BE ABSORBED AND USED **AGAINST** YOU!

YOU HAVE BEEN **WARNED!**

FZAAM!

DUTCH! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

=SIGH=

DUTCH! SPEAK TO ME!

I'M... ALL BROKEN UP... INSIDE... FLOTS. .

AND THEN. .

OH NO!

?

THE CYBERMAN HAS **STOLEN** THE TARDIS!

AND TAKEN JETS WITH HIM!

INSIDE THE TARDIS

W-WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

SILENCE! YOU WILL NOT QUESTION MY MOTIVES!

A SHORT WHILE LATER...

VWORP

THE TARDIS MATERIALISED

ON THE SURFACE OF A ROCKY PLANET.

OUT!

JUST ONE GOOD CHANCE IS ALL I NEED...

AND THIS TIN GORILLA IS GONNA FIND HIMSELF LYIN' AT THE BOTTOM OF A CLIFF...

NEXT MOMENT, THE SCRAP DEALER FOUND HIMSELF CONFRONTED BY A VISION BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT *IS* IT?

THIS... PUNY HUMAN... IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF A ONCE MIGHTY *CYBER-FLEET!*

A FLEET THAT WAS DESTINED TO *TRAVERSE* THE COSMOS!

NICE BIT O' STUFF! MIND IF I LOOK INSIDE?

GO QUICKLY, HUMAN... PASS THROUGH THE HATCH...

AND INTO THE CHAMBER BEYOND...

ALL THIS SCRAP LYIN' AROUND FOR THE TAKIN'!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE DIED AND GONE TO *HEAVEN!*

IN THE INNER CHAMBER, MORE WONDERS AWAITED..

BEHOLD, HUMAN.. THE GREAT CYBERNAUT *ZOGRON*... ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF OUR INTERSTELLAR EMPIRE!

HE SEEMS TO BE IN A BAD WAY!

YOUR TASK IS TO *REVIVE* HIM... RESTORE HIS SYSTEMS TO A LEVEL OF FUNCTION...

AND WITH THE TIME CAPSULE I HAVE OBTAINED, ZOGRON WILL ONCE AGAIN *RULE TIME AND SPACE!!*

MEANWHILE... BACK ON THE DRIFTER...

THAT CYBERMAN HAS TAKEN THE TARDIS FOR A **REASON**, FLOTS! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT AND WHERE!

I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, DOCTOR — LIKE WE SAID... WE'VE JUST RE-PROGRAMMED THE ODD ONE OR TWO FOR USE AS **BUTLERS!**

THEY GO FOR A **FORTUNE!**

WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD CAUSE ALL THIS TROUBLE!

JUST A MINUTE...WHERE DID YOU PICK UP YOUR FIRST CYBERMAN?

ALL THE DETAILS ARE LOGGED IN THE SHIP'S COMPUTER...

LEMME SEE...

HE WAS ADRIFT IN QUADRANT 747... ARCTURIAN SYSTEM...

AND THE ONE AFTER THAT?

WHAT'S THE NEAREST PLANET TO THOSE TWO POINTS?

A SMALL PLANET CALLED AS4 ..

IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLY LONG SHOT... BUT IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE..

CAN WE GET THERE?

WE CAN SWITCH TO SOLAR POWER — TOGETHER WITH THE ION-DRIVE MOTORS WE CAN MAKE GOOD SPEED..

BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO NAVIGATE WHILE I ATTEND TO THE MECHANICS!

THEN LET'S GO!

ENGINES BLAZING, THE DRIFTER POWERED OFF INTO THE VOID .

AND AS DUSK FELL ON AS4..

I HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH TOOLS, HUMAN ...YOUR TASK SHOULD BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE...

YEAH... ABOUT AS SIMPLE AS DOING A JIGSAW IN THE DARK...

I'LL DO ME BEST, MATE!

THE GREAT SUN, ARCTURUS, SANK FROM SIGHT

A MOON ROSE..

FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER... AND BETWEEN THEM A TINY SPECK OF LIGHT WHICH GREW **LARGER** BY THE HOUR..

AS ARCTURUS ROSE AGAIN— JETS WAS APPROACHING EXHAUSTION

REPORT YOUR PROGRESS, HUMAN!

SEE FOR YOURSELF, MATE... I'VE DONE THE BEST I CAN!

CYBERNAUT ZOGRON... WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE RESUMPTION OF YOUR MISSION?

I AWAIT YOUR COMMAND!

THE CYBERLEADER DOES NOT SPEAK! YOU HAVE, **FAILED**, HUMAN!

GIVE HIM A CHANCE! I HAD TO REPAIR SOME EXTENSIVE DAMAGE .. AND MAKE SOME VERY **DELICATE ADJUSTMENTS!**

LOOK!

CYBERLEADER... I AWAIT YOUR COMMAND! THE COSMOS AWAITS! SPEAK TO ME!

WOULD YOU CARE FOR A SMALL SHERRY BEFORE DINNER, SIR?

HE'S UP ON HIS HIND LEGS.. I THINK HE'S ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING!

OR WOULD YOU PREFER A GIN AND TONIC?

YOUR QUESTION DOES NOT COMPUTE!

IT IS TOTALLY MEANINGLESS!

HUMAN! YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME! YOUR LIFE WILL BE TERMINATED FORTHWITH!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, MATE!

MAY I TAKE YOUR COAT, MADAM?

ESCAPE IS FUTILE!

YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO!

HE'S GOT A POINT THERE! EITHER WAY I'M A GONER!

BUT THEN... A FAMILIAR SHAPE CHUGGED INTO VIEW...

WOW! IT'S THE DRIFTER! COME ON, OLD GIRL... COME TO YOUR UNCLE JETS!

ON BOARD

THERE'S A WRECKED SHIP DOWN THERE! YOUR SCANNERS WERE RIGHT, FLOTS!

THEY WERE DESIGNED TO NOSE OUT JUNK, DOCTOR!

ANY SIGN OF CYBERMEN?

NOT YET

HOLD ON... I SAW THE FLASH OF A BEAM WEAPON!

WHUMP!

AND THE TARDIS IS DOWN THERE!

I'M GOING IN!!

AND HER INTREPID CREW, WITH A HASTILY REPAIRED DUTCH, STEPPED OUT ON TO THE SURFACE.

SO, THE DRIFTER IN ALL HER STATELY GLORY RUMBLED DOWN TO MEET AS4..

TO BE GREETED WITH A DESPERATE CRY!

FLOTS! DOC! OVER HERE!

LOOK OUT, JETS! BEHIND YOU!

BLAM!

AAARGH!

LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME..

I'VE GOT A **SCORE** TO SETTLE!

BACK OFF CHUM... I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU THIS TIME!

YOUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS!

I CAN ABSORB ENERGY AND DIRECT IT **AGAINST** YOU!

THAT MAY BE SO.. BUT THIS AIN'T A WEAPON...

IT'S A **PAINT SPRAY!**

EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF POLYMER PLASTICS NOT CONDUCIVE TO NORMAL FUNCTIONING!

=FZIT! CIRCUITS FUSING... PZZRT!=

BODY MECHANICS SEIZING! =PZIIIITTT!=

...BRAIN CELLS..! DETERIORATING! ZZTTT! PFWITTZ!

=PHUT!=

THAT LAST BLAST COULD'VE DONE FOR ME, DOC... THANKS FOR THE WARNING!

DON'T MENTION IT

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT?

RIGHT AS NINEPENCE DOC... WE'VE GOT A WHOLE YEAR'S WORK AHEAD OF US ON THIS SCRAP PLANET..

NOT TO MENTION THE MOST SOPHISTICATED **SUPERBUTLER** IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY!

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT, CHAPS...

I HAVE A PRESSING ENGAGEMENT ELSEWHERE... 'BYE!

HEAVEN HELP US IF THEY EVER FIND ANY DALEKS!

THE END

THEY CAME FROM THE DEEPS... SAILING THE SOLAR WINDS WHILE PLANET EARTH WAS SLEEPING... THEIR GREED FOR POWER WAS **INSATIABLE**... THE PROPHETS SAID IT WAS THE **DAY OF JUDGEMENT**, WHILE OTHERS SPOKE OF **SIVA**, DESTROYER OF WORLDS...

BUT FOR MOST, T WAS THE LAST LINK IN A CHAIN OF **CATASTROPHES** THAT STRETCHED FAR BACK NTO EARTH S HISTORY.. A LINK FORGED ON THE ANVIL OF WAR AND WELDED BY THE AWESOME FURY OF...

the NEUTRON Knights

WRITER | STEVE PARKHOUSE
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EARTH'S MEAGRE DEFENCES FOUGHT BRAVELY, EACH OUTPOST A **CHALLENGE** TO THE WAVE OF ARMOURED MIGHT ...

BUT THE CHALLENGE WAS MET .. AND **OVERCOME!**

AND AT THE HEAD OF EACH ASSAULT, THE SAME LEGENDARY FIGURE ... THE GREAT MUTANT **CATAVOLCUS** ... IN HIS OWN TONGUE ... THE **WOLF!**

ARMED WITH A TERRIBLE **SWORD of FIRE** ... AND A MURDEROUS HATRED OF ALL THAT LIVED!

STAND ASIDE!! GET AWAY FROM THOSE DOORS, DAMN YOU!

STEEL DOORS BUCKLED AND MELTED BENEATH THE WHITE-HOT FLAME ..

WHAT EARTHLY BARRIER COULD WITHSTAND A MAN WHO HAD ALREADY BREACHED THE **GATES OF HELL?**

THEY'VE **BROKEN THROUGH,** SIRE!

OUR SENTRIES AT THE SOUTH GATES ALSO REPORT A **BREACH** OF DEFENCES ...

WE MUST RETREAT TO THE **INNER CHAMBERS!**

YES .. RETREAT IS THE ONLY WAY ...

... RETREAT ... AND PRAY FOR A **MIRACLE** ...

BECAUSE FOR US THE BATTLE IS **OVER!**

IN A SANCTUM DEEP BENEATH THE CASTLE REPOSED AN ANCIENT FIGURE .. UPON WHOM THE WISDOM OF AGES HUNG LIKE A **CLOAK** OF SILENCE ...

AND POSSESSED OF A **MIND** WHICH KNEW NO HORIZONS ...

ALL IS IN **READINESS** ... THE POINT OF **EQUILIBRIUM** IS ATTAINED ...

THE FATES ARE HELD IN **PERFECT** BALANCE ...

NOW I MUST PROBE THE **GULFS** OF TIME AND SPACE ...

AND **FIND** THE ONE I SEEK!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE **TARDIS** WAS DRIFTING IN FREEFALL SOMEWHERE AT THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM ..

THAT'S ODD! I HAVEN'T PRE-SET A PROGRAMME ON THE CONSOLE FOR **AGES** ...

BUT THE AUTOMATIC COURSE INDICATOR LIGHT IS **FLASHING!**

I WAS RIGHT! THE DISPLAY SHOWS NO PROGRAMME ... APART FROM THE **USUAL** FUNCTIONS ...

AND YET THE MATERIALISATION SEQUENCE HAS STARTED ...

WHORP!

ALL BY ITSELF!!

FROM THE SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS, BY THE **FIRE** OF STARS, IN WHICH **ALL THINGS** BEGIN AND END ...

AND BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE **LORDS OF TIME** ...

WHORP! WHORP!

... I SUMMON THEE FORTH!

POLICE BOX

WHAT'S GOING ON? A CHAP CAN'T CALL A TARDIS HIS **OWN** THESE DAYS!

I SAY ... ARE YOU **ALRIGHT?**

WHO ARE YOU?

I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT YOU BROUGHT ME HERE ... BY SHEER EFFORT OF **WILL!**

NO, TIME-LORD... NOT MY WILL... I AM MERELY A VESSEL THROUGH WHICH A **GREATER** POWER FLOWS!

YOU MAY NOT KNOW ME ... BUT **I** KNOW **YOU!** I HAVE CALLED YOU HERE IN EARTH'S HOUR OF NEED "

IF YOU CARE FOR EARTH ... THEN HELP ME!

COME ... BE SEATED..

BEHOLD A **SHATTERED** WORLD! A DESOLATE PLANET... TRAMPLED BENEATH THE HEEL OF MERCILESS WARRIORS!

THE EARTH AS YOU KNEW IT NO LONGER EXISTS!

IT IS NOW A **WILDERNESS** WHERE ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE!

AND THIS MAN IS THE **STRONGEST** OF ALL!

WE CANNOT TELL WHAT MOTIVATES HIM ... WHAT DRIVES HIM TO SEEK NOTHING BUT **CONQUEST!**

IT'S NOT STRENGTH THAT MOTIVATES SUCH MEN ... BUT WEAKNESS ... **MONUMENTAL** WEAKNESS!

I KNOW, OLD MAN ... I'VE FACED SUCH CREATURES ON A DOZEN WORLDS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME? WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

I, TOO, WAS SUMMONED HERE FROM **ANOTHER TIME**... TO FIGHT EARTH'S **LAST BATTLE**. AND IT SEEMS I HAVE FAILED!

THE CHAMBER WAS **ROCKED** BY A THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION!

THE ENEMY IS AT THE DOOR!!

THE OLD MAN REACHED FORWARD AND PRESSED A SWITCH. THE FLOOR OF THE CHAMBER SLID BACK..

THIS IS WHAT THE ENEMY SEEK!

BEHOLD, TIME-LORD ... BEHOLD THE DRAGON!

THIS IS THE LAST GREAT POWER-SOURCE ON EARTH! SHOULD IT FALL TO CATAVOLCUS, THEN NO WORLD WOULD BE SAFE!

GOOD LORD! IT'S SOME KIND OF HUGE NUCLEAR FISSION DEVICE!

I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE DRAGON! IT'S POWER IS EQUAL TO THAT OF THE SUN!

THE DOCTOR LOOKED DOWN INTO A PIT .. WHERE A VAST MACHINE SQUATTED LIKE SOME GREAT BEAST... HUMMING OMINOUSLY TO ITSELF.

HUMMMMM!

A POWER WHICH MUST BE RELEASED!

THE HUM ROSE TO A WHINE .. THEN TO A HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK...

YOU'RE MAD! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

BUT YOU HAVE THE MEANS OF ESCAPE!

YOU'VE ACTIVATED THE FISSION PROCESS! YOU'LL BLOW EVERYTHING TO KINGDOM COME!

YOUR CRAFT, TIME-LORD! YOUR CRAFT! COME, WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

BUT AT THE TOP OF THE WELL A SALVO OF SHOTS STOPPED THE FLEEING PAIR IN THEIR TRACKS!

HANG ON, OLD MAN! I'LL TRY AND **REACH** YOU SOME-HOW!

GO! IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME NOW! GO BACK UP AND WAIT FOR THE OTHERS!

BUT THE *NEUTRON KNIGHTS* HAD INFILTRATED THE CASTLE...

GREAT GODS! THIS IS WHAT WE *CAME* HERE FOR!

ALL THE POWER WE'LL EVER NEED!

NO!! NOT WHILE I LIVE... YOU'LL *NEVER* TAKE IT!

THE CASTLE DEFENDERS THREW THEMSELVES INTO THE FRAY...

THEIR LEADER'S GAZE FELL TO THE LEDGE BELOW THE RIM... WHERE THE DOCTOR WAS STRUGGLING VALIANTLY...

AAAGH!!

AND A SINGLE, *UNBELIEVABLE* WORD BURST FROM HIS LIPS...

MERLIN!!

HOLD FAST! WE'LL SOON GET YOU OUT!

THEN HURRY, ARTHUR! AND DO NOT **HARM** THIS ONE... HE CAN SAVE US ALL!

?

THE DRAGON HAS DRAWN BREATH... SOON HIS FIRE WILL **SCORCH** THE WORLD...

WE MUST BE AWAY!

MERLIN? *ARTHUR?* AM I GOING **MAD?**

SOME DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, TIME-LORD... BUT NOW YOU MUST LEAVE WITH US!

IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE!

ALL SURVIVING DEFENDERS ARE ASSEMBLED IN THE TIME-VESSEL... COME... **BE QUICK!**

BUT, NEXT MOMENT A SNARLING FIGURE BURST THROUGH THE CHAMBER DOORS!

INTO THE CRAFT! I WILL HOLD THIS ONE AT BAY!

B-BUT...

DO AS I SAY!

SO! YOU SEEK ESCAPE FROM THE FANGS OF THE **WOLF!**

THERE IS ONLY **ONE** ESCAPE FOR YOU, MY FRIEND...

AND THAT IS **DEATH!**

AAAGH!

WHORRWHORR

WITH A MIGHTY SWING, CATAVOLCUS ATTACKED THE TARDIS...

BUT HIS BLAZING SWORD MET ONLY **THIN AIR!**

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER THE DRAGON **ROARED** ... FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, A **STAR** BLOSSOMED ON EARTH...

THE CASTLE VAPOURISED IN A HUGE **FIREBALL** ... IT'S VERY *ATOMS* TORN ASUNDER!

TIME HUNG SUSPENDED AS THE TARDIS SPIRALLED END OVER END INTO THE SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS...

SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE DOCTOR'S MIND, A THOUGHT COALESCED...

AM I **DREAMING?**

I CAN REMEMBER SETTING THE CONTROLS...

BUT AFTER THAT... **NOTHING!**

THEN THE MEMORY OF THE **CATACLYSM** FLOODED BACK...

WHERE **AM** I?

THE OTHERS! WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? HOW LONG HAVE I **BEEN** HERE?

SOMETHING CAUGHT THE DOCTOR'S EYE, A FIGURE AGAINST THE SKYLINE... SUNLIGHT GLINTING ON A DRAWN SWORD...

THEN IT WAS **GONE!**

NO DREAM, THEN... BUT A GIANT **ILLUSION** SURELY? SOME KIND OF *TIME-LOOP*... PAST AND FUTURE FLOWING INTO THE SAME EVENT...

WELL, WHATEVER IT WAS... IT'S TIME I WAS GOING!

WHAT? YOU *AGAIN?*

I LEAVE YOU WITH ONE LAST MESSAGE, TIME-LORD...

OUR PATHS ARE DESTINED TO CROSS ONCE MORE! IN SOME DISTANT TIME, IN SOME **OTHER** FORM... WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!

FAREWELL.

SO... FOR ALL MY KNOWLEDGE... FOR ALL THE TECHNOLOGY AT MY *DISPOSAL*, I STILL HAVE NO WAY OF FORESEEING THAT *MOST UNPREDICTABLE* THING OF ALL...

...MY OWN **FUTURE!**

COMING NEXT ISSUE: